

JUNE
1951

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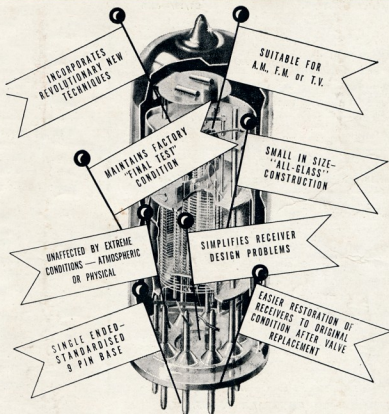
JOURNAL OF
THE WIRELESS
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA

For the Experimenter
and Radio Enthusiast



9_D.

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JUNE 1951

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EDITORIAL



Are the Defence Services Taking Full Advantage of the Trained Personnel Available from the Ranks of the Amateurs?

Up to date, of the three Active Services—Navy, Army, and the Air Force—only the Air Force has submitted a scheme directly to our members and even that scheme does not appear to be receiving as much enthusiasm and push from official Service quarters as it merits.

Many of our members served in the radar and communications branches of other arms of the Services during both world wars, and many of them—particularly the younger generation from the 1939-45 war—are expressing their disappointment at the absence of plans for them in the event of a third world war.

In view of the fine war record the Amateur has rightly earned from his ability, so ably demonstrated in the past, to take over in the event of a National Emergency, the Services could have a resolute backbone of well trained personnel who would only require relatively short training to fit themselves into Service routine.

It is hoped that before long the "permanent careerist" attitude at present so evident in the Services will give way to a saner and more sober realisation of the true worth of the Amateur—his vast capacity for enthusiastic national service and his desire to take a keen interest in preparing for all eventualities.

Why should he have to search vainly for an avenue to offer his services which should eagerly be sought by not only the three main arms of the Services, but also by Civilian Defence Organisations?

America and England have long since taken advantage of this ready-made source of technical personnel for the various branches of their military and civil organisations. It is hoped that the powers-that-be in Australia will grasp this advantage before it is too late.

There will be no time to think about it afterwards!

—FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.

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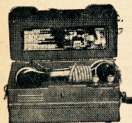


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Simple Frequency Meter For Amateur Bands

BY DR. LEO H. McMAHON,* VK2AC

An accurate Frequency Meter is a very handy instrument to have besides being prescribed by the regulations. Until the advent of the BC221 and its variations and the disposals 100 Kc. crystals, frequency meters in this country, for the most part, were not very accurate nor reliable. Even now, the 221 is not available to many and 100 Kc. crystals have to be built into quite a bit of gear to make a good frequency meter. 100 Kc. crystals have bugs all of their own and are not the simple things to handle the books would have you think.

The main points about a frequency meter are that it must be stable, its calibration must be accurate and its re-set stability must be reliable. The latter point is of great importance. What is the use of a frequency meter that will be accurately calibrated at one temperature and tomorrow at a different temperature will be up to two kilocycles out on 14 Mc. That is well within the bounds of possibility.

A "Clapp" was built on 1.75 Mc., taking all precautions towards stability. Even so, the frequency measured at 14 Mc. at any one setting varied up to 2 Kc. at different temperatures. If anybody thinks that is unusual, let him listen to the v.f.o.'s in common use. A shift of a kilocycle on 14 Mc. in each over is about the rule. Before anybody challenges that statement let him listen to a few v.f.o.'s with a reliable stable meter before he is too rash in rushing to the defence of the common standard of stability.

We have all been impressed by the stability of the BC set. It will stay for days tuned to the one station. This stability would be very handy on the Amateur bands. One means of getting this stability is to use the old flexlax system. That is a low frequency oscillator in conjunction with a high frequency crystal oscillator. That is the basis of the frequency meter here described.

In this we haven't to bother about balanced modulators to balance out the crystal frequency. The writer has had experience with valve balanced modulators and does not like them. At the point of balance 50 cycle a.c. modulation on the remaining carrier is present. It has been suggested that the only solution is to use a d.c. filament supply. How? I ask you! However, that is another story. In this case we need not bother about such refinements. Moreover, the troubles that prohibit this unit being used as a control unit of a transmitter, namely the harmonics of the low frequency oscillator, can be turned to advantage to provide check points.

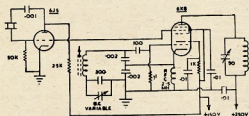
A 6J5 is used as a Pierce oscillator on 6375 Kc. and a 6K8 oscillator and mixer to give output on 7000 to 7200 Kc. It may be preferable to use the 6J5 as the v.f.o. but the aim was to do it all with one tube. An attempt to make a Pierce oscillator, using the screen of the 6K8, failed because it was not

reliable enough. Maybe it could be done with a tuned circuit in the screen. The lazy way was used, hence a separate oscillator.

The v.f.o. is a "Clapp" type covering 625 Kc. to 825 Kc. This combination was used because the parts were on hand. Any combination to suit what you have can be worked out. The v.f.o. frequency is lower than that used in BC sets using 455 Kc., even when tuned to 550 Kc.

No great pains were taken with the v.f.o. but its stability is very good. It gives a variation in re-set stability on 7 Mc. of about 200 cycles. That is as would be expected. If used as the controlling oscillator, that 200 cycle variation, when multiplied to 7 Mc., would represent a variation of about 2 Kc. and which as you will agree is quite an amount.

As with any frequency meter the condenser and dial mechanism is of great importance. Look at them in the 221. The condenser the author uses is a standard b.c. condenser in conjunction with a standard aerial coil. The degree of accuracy to which you can read the meter depends on the dial. The better



the dial, the better the result. With even the simplest dials, it is easy to measure to 1 Kc. on 7 Mc.

In the v.f.o. 0.002 uF. condensers are used to increase the tuning range. With the "Clapp" v.f.o. the available tuning capacity is the resultant of the three condensers in series. If 0.001 uF. is used and a 500 pF. variable to make the arithmetic easy, the maximum capacity is 250 pF. If you increase to 0.002 uF. then you get up to 333 pF.

With the increased capacity the tube effects are lessened. When using a 6AC7 in a "Clapp" circuit and 0.001 uF. condensers, you may get a squeezing effect as you increase the tuning capacity. The cure for this is to increase the capacities to 0.002 uF. and so more loosely couple the tube.

Some may be worried about using an oscillator in the b.c. range. However all b.c. sets do it and cross all b.c. stations higher than about 1,000 Kc. If you don't believe it drive a car around using a car radio—see how many heterodynes you can pick up on the high frequency stations. Another point about the v.f.o. is that you can use the b.c. stations as frequency measuring points.

The construction is quite simple. The valves used were those on hand. Use

reasonable care with the v.f.o. and you will get stable results. The output on 7 Mc. across the coil is about 3 volts. The method of coupling to the receiver has to be found experimentally. If sufficient output cannot be had at 14 or 28 Mc. you may add an r.f. amplifier or doubler, but remember you are using this as a frequency meter not as a driver. You have only to hear it not see it.

The calibration of the unit may be done against any standard. The b.c. stations can be used as check points and it is often handy to increase the tuning range of the v.f.o. slightly to take in an extra b.c. station or two. Otherwise the unit must be calibrated from some known standard. It should not be too difficult to get the use of some standard to check against for the short time needed for the calibration.

Besides the desired frequency for the unit you can also hear the harmonics of the v.f.o. as they fall in the band in question. At certain points these harmonics beat against the output frequency and give you check points. These check points can be calculated beforehand.

Take the writer's case where a crystal on 6375 Kc. is used. The formula being $6375 \cdot x = xy$, where 6375 is the crystal frequency, x is the v.f.o. frequency, and y is the number of the harmonic. In this example "y" has the values of 9, 10 and 11. This gives check points at 7012.5 Kc., 7083.5 Kc. and 7171.5 Kc. respectively. Together with two Sydney b.c. stations, this gives five check points in the 40 metre band.

The harmonics are much weaker than the output frequency, some 30 db, and they also tune much more rapidly.

All told, this is quite a simple frequency meter to get going. It does not cover the 80 metre band, but it does not take much ingenuity to see how it could be used to cover this band. This meter is recommended as a very simple means of getting an accurate frequency meter with the minimum of trouble and engineering difficulties.

The plate coil of the 6K8 mixer contains 25 turns wound on 1" diameter former with 28 gauge enamel.

PHILIPS TO SUPPLY NEW A.B.C. TRANSMITTERS

Transmitters for additional A.B.C. stations in country areas throughout Australia have been ordered from Philips Electrical Industries of Australia Pty. Limited.

A total of 12 dual broadcast transmitters is involved, each with an output of 200 watts. It is anticipated that delivery of the complete 12 units will be made early next year, but that at least two will be delivered towards the end of this year.

* 32 Harbourn Rd., Kingsford, Sydney.

Twenty-First Annual Federal Convention of W.A.A.

Federal Executive's Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The activities of the Institute have been maintained very satisfactorily throughout the year by all Divisions, and the Federal Council is indeed grateful to all Divisional Officers for their loyal support in their various capacities.

Membership throughout the Divisions has been maintained satisfactorily, and the financial stability of the Institute, as a whole, is very sound.

In the Federal sphere, your Executive has been able to carry out the majority of the directives laid down by the Association at this year's Convention. It is felt that you will realise that the Institute's progress as a whole is due, in no small measure, to the policy laid down at each annual Convention, and consequently, the decisions reached at these conferences are of prime importance to the welfare of all members.

Your Executive has continued to maintain cordial relations with the officers of the F.M.G. Department, and it is desired to remind members that the very friendly contact thus established has done much to facilitate favourable decisions on matters affecting Amateurs throughout the Commonwealth.

Your Executive has also maintained close contact with the DX Bureau during the year, and items of international interest resulting from our discussions have been published in "Amateur Radio" from time to time. It is felt that all members will wish to join with your Executive in extending congratulations to the Editor and staff of "Amateur Radio" for their successful and untiring efforts in the production of an interesting and valuable contribution to the life of the Institute. Our thanks are also extended to the Victorian Division for its financial support in this venture.

Congratulations are also extended to those Amateurs who rendered public service in emergency conditions, when normal means of communication were interrupted. The development of suitable equipment for this purpose presents a opportunity for considerable experimentation and originality.

The Treasurer's statement shows the present satisfactory position of Federal finances and the Treasurer is to be congratulated for his careful handling of the very considerable amount of income.

The work of the Federal Secretary is deserving of special mention, and he is due to be thanked for the vast amount of the expenditure by him in carrying out the duties of an honorary official which occupies so much of his leisure hours.

The Federal Publicity Officer, the Federal QSL Bureau Manager, the Federal DX C.C. Manager and the Federal Traffic Manager have all done splendid work during the year, and our appreciation is extended to them.

The faithful work of the Federal Vice-President should not be overlooked, and he is a most reliable and conscientious member of the Executive.

It is hoped that the year now before us will offer us a further opportunity to enjoy to the full those facilities now available to us as Amateurs, and it behoves us to do our utmost as individuals to strengthen and support the Institute in its activities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is my pleasure and duty to present for your approval revenue statements and a balance sheet embodying the financial transactions of the Federal Institute for the year ending at 31st February 1951. This is an 11-month period, brought about by the fact that Easter occurs approximately two-three weeks earlier than usual.

The documents in your hands consist of the balance sheet, being a statement of our assets and liabilities, and statements of receipts and payments No. 1 and No. 2 accounts, and the statement of income and expenditure. These statements are drawn up in the same position, and are rendered in detail as required by our Federal Constitution.

You will note that we now have two accounts with the Commonwealth Bank, No. 1 Account taking care of general receipts and expenditure, whilst No. 2 Account is devoted purely to Convention expenses. The two accounts are working smoothly, and satisfactorily cover our accounting needs.

It should be perusal of the figures will indicate that economy has been observed, and the balance of £212/10/8 at the Bank against No. 1 Account is a credit. The balance and details attached are therefore submitted for your approval.

The budget for 1950 provides a reliable guide for our financial requirements for 1951, and that experience I now submit Federal Executive's estimated budgeting for 1951.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| QSL Bureau | £10 0 0 |
| Printing and Stationery | 10 0 0 |
| Audit of Accounts | 10 0 0 |
| Trophies and Prizes | 25 0 0 |
| Constitutional Minutes | 10 0 0 |
| Petty Cash | 15 0 0 |
| Convention Dinner | 20 0 0 |
| Convention Expenses | 150 0 0 |
| Entertaining | 10 0 0 |
| Contingencies | 20 0 0 |
| £290 0 0 | |

At this point I wish to advise that due to an impending change of address to a nearby country district, it is necessary for me to leave the Federal Executive this year. Mr. George Manning has therefore been appointed my successor as Federal Treasurer, and I wish him well in his new responsibility.

Finally, I would like to thank the Federal Executive and his officers and also all Divisional officers for their splendid co-operation during my four years of office. If I can be of further service to the Institute in any way during the time, I shall be only too pleased to serve in any capacity for the benefit of the Wireless Institute of Australia and its members.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DEC., 1950

| EQUITIES | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Accumulated Fund | £321 5 7 |
| £321 5 7 | |

| ASSETS | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Current Assets:- | |
| Cash at Bank | £137 8 11 |
| Certificates on hand | 30 0 0 |
| Badges on hand at cost | 5 15 8 |
| Stationery on hand | 3 0 0 |
| £226 5 7 | |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Fixed Assets:- | |
| Eddystone S.W. Receiv. | £50 0 0 |
| Trophy Rememb. Day | 35 0 0 |
| 95 0 0 | |
| £321 5 7 | |

Moved S.A., seconded W.A.: "That the report be received."—Carried.

Moved N.S.W., sec. 2: "That the fixed assets be written down by 50 per cent. in the next annual balance sheet."—Carried.

Moved Vic., sec. Qld.: "That the statement of assets and liabilities be received."—Carried.

FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

The Federal QSL Bureau functioned smoothly and efficiently throughout the year under review. No major difficulties were experienced and the co-operation received from the Federal Executive and particularly from the Federal Secretary was all that could be desired.

Cards handled totalled 45,466. This total is again a reduction on that for the previous year. Comparison with the previous year shows: 71,883; 1948-49, 63,786; 1949-50, 58,822. Despite the increase in world Amateur population the steady decrease is attributable to the continued publicity of the address of the Federal Divisional Bureau, and to the greatly increased circulation of the International Call Book. Another contributing factor is the poor and irregular conditions which prevailed during the past eight months on the main International DX Bureau, and 26 Mc. periodically for contacts with North America from whence emanates a good percentage of QSL Bureau traffic.

Due to the increase in postage rates for the year, we were approximately £1 less than the previous year, despite a further increase in postage rates of approximately 10 per cent. from December, 1950. However, due to the postage increases of the past two years, the true basis of costs—that is, cost of handling per 100 cards—is constant to 2 pence. For the year ending this cost shows as 3.6 pence per 100 cards as compared with 3.3 pence in 1949-50, 3.37 pence in 1948-49, and 2.54 pence in 1947-48. Due to the Victorian Bureau were again passed by hand due to the continued good work of VK3XCM and VK3KOT. Their efforts in this regard represent a fine saving.

All the Divisional Bureaus functioned well during the year, and, with the exception of the Queensland Division, all were in good order. Personnel remained unchanged. In Queensland, the Inward Bureau was taken over by Jack

Files, VK4JF, from Eric Lake, VK4EL, when the latter was transferred. The Outward Bureau for this Division was taken over by VK4RL, on the sad death of my old friend and reliable QSL officer, Bob Campbell, VK4RC, during the year.

W.A.C. and W.B.E. applications handled during the year totalled 1,000. Items of interest to Divisional Managers and to Amateurs generally were published monthly in Federal QSL Bureau column in "Amateur Radio".

During the present year I will celebrate 20 years of continuous service as QSL Manager for the W.I.A. During this period upwards of half a million cards have passed through this Bureau.

Following is the balance sheet of the Bureau:

| Receipts | |
|--|--------|
| By Credit Balance from 1949-50 | £3 7 9 |
| .. Advances from Federal Executive | 7 10 0 |
| £17 8 9 | |

| Expenditure | |
|--|---------|
| To Postages on despatches to Divisional Bureaus, W.A.C. correspondence, surcharged mail, and other | £5 15 9 |
| .. Cash and Stamps on hand | 1 2 0 |
| £7 17 9 | |

TRAFFIC MANAGER'S REPORT

Twice weekly schedules have been satisfactorily maintained during the past twelve months with the Divisional Traffic Managers: VK2ARE, VK4AW, VK3JT, VK6SA, and VKTOM. With 381 (377) contacts was made by the Federal Traffic Manager, during the period.

It was pleasing to note that with the increase of inward messages to 27 (18) the seem to be again realising the value of this channel. Outward messages totalled 25 (27) to 27 (22) and 27 (22) during the period.

The figures in brackets are the comparative totals for the year 1949-50. VK3ZC kindred contacts during periods when VK3ZC was not available.

In the 4½ years since this net first commenced its post-war operations on the 22nd October, 1946, VK3ZC has contacted 1,640 stations on a total of 1,640 occasions.

The senior out-station (in more ways than one) is VK4V, 20 Mc. during the year, with 238 contacts, VK2ARE with 234 contacts, VKTOM with 204 contacts, while VK4AW has 88 contacts to his credit since taking over from VK4AG whose total was 99 contacts.

FEDERAL DX C.C. MANAGER'S REPORT

I took over the job of DX C.C. Manager during September, 1950, and I present herewith a brief report on the activities of the DX Century Club, and the W.A.S. 50 Mc. during the past year.

Firstly the DX Century Club. The following members were listed for the year ending 31st December, 1950: Phone 7, making a total of 18; C.W. 14, making a total of 34; Open 13, making a total of 43. The total membership is now 93.

I sincerely hope that the "proposed standard DX record card" as presented as an appendix to the schedule for the year ending 1951, ed. Its adoption, to my mind, will be of great benefit to the DX C.C. Committee and to applicants for membership. I suggest it be used in a manner similar to that used by the "CQ" Magazine Awards Committee in recording the year's progress.

A number of members and applicants have been forwarding their cards without including the return address, and postage. I have had this matter publicised in the past, and in the official W.I.A. broadcast, and hope that in future members and applicants will include postage, thereby saving the Institute considerable expense over the year and considerable inconvenience to the Committee.

For 26 pence, 50 Mc. The checking of cards and the issue of certificates has proceeded smoothly over the year, ten applicants having been awarded certificates. A special award has been issued to each applicant claiming an additional country worked on this band.

During the year regular schedules were kept with the DX C.C. and the W.I.A. Conditions on the DX bands have prevented contacts at the schedule times over the past few weeks.

Schedules are also being arranged with the R.S.B.G. and the N.Z.A.R.T. These contacts

are mainly for the purpose of checking alterations in call lists and the record of doubtful DX stations, etc.

This report is brief, but I trust I have given the Convention some useful information on how this is done, and that the Federal organisation is functioning and progressing.

Moved Tas., sec. Vic.: "That the reports as read be received.—Carried."

Moved W.A., sec. Qld.: "That a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. R. E. Jones, VK3RJ."

Minutes of the Convention

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That in view of the increased cost of postage, the matter of uniform charges for the handling of both internal and external QSL cards be discussed and determined." After discussion, it was agreed that the policy book covered the situation.—Carried.

2. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That at the conclusion of the Convention business, an open session be declared for an exchange of views between delegates on matters concerning Amateur Radio."—Carried.

3. Moved N.S.W., sec. Tas.: "That the Convention should sit on Easter Sunday if there is any business unfinished at the conclusion of the Friday session."—Carried.

4. Moved Vic., sec. W.A.: "That the co-operation of other States be sought in making greater use of the higher frequency ends of the six and two metre bands."—Carried.

5. This item was withdrawn by the Queensland delegate in action already taken by Federal Executive.

6. Moved S.A., sec. W.A.: "That the Convention in future be held every second year, the next in 1953."—Lost.

7. Moved S.A., sec. Vic.: "That the matter of electrical interference elimination be pressed by Federal Executive with the State Government's Department with a view to having some uniform law passed as in the United Kingdom and to the highest degree in accordance with reception of radio signals."—Carried.

8. Moved W.A., sec. S.A.: "That Sydney be the venue of the 1952 Annual Federal Convention."—Carried.

9. Moved W.A., sec. S.A.: "That Federal Executive should clarify to the Federal Council the meaning of the words 'Guidance of Operators of Amateur Wireless Stations' to the Handbook for the Guidance of Amateur Operators with the Wireless Telegraphy Act."—Carried.

Federal Executive produced copies of the Wireless Telegraphy Act and Statutory Rules, and explained the meaning of the words in the documents and the Handbook for the Guidance of Operators of Amateur Wireless Stations to the satisfaction of the assembly.

10. Moved W.A., sec. Vic.: "That any person eligible for membership in any grade residing in a Division can become a member of that Division only."—Carried.

11. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That the location of Federal Executive for 1951-52 be in N.S.W. State."—Lost.

12. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the contents of the Institute's Policy Book be reviewed at each Convention to preserve continuity of Federal action."—Carried.

12a. (Motion arising from review of Policy Book) Moved N.S.W., sec. F.E.: "That a recommendation be made by the South Australian Division to Federal Executive concerning the appropriate recipient of the W.A.S. Trophy."—Carried.

The Policy Book was read in its entirety and certain redundancies removed of which Federal Executive was to officially notify to Divisional Councils in due course. The suggestion was agreed to that in future the Policy Book revision be No. 1 item on the agenda.

13. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive receive reports from time to time from all Divisions of any event of an historical nature regarding Amateur Radio, and that Federal Executive be authorised in the channels of the P.M.G. Department to assist in the compilation of a 'History of Amateur Radio' at some future date."—Carried.

14. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the draft standard membership application form be adopted by all Divisions."—Carried.

15. Moved F.E., sec. Qld.: "That emergency traffic material be chosen from the following submitted signals to comply with agenda item 40 from the 1950 Convention, and that the signal so chosen be submitted to the P.M.G. Department for approval and if approved given wide publicity throughout the Amateur licensees of that Division for phone use." (F.E. "TRA" for c.w. use, "Distress Network Traffic" for phone, "DNT" for c.w.)—Carried.

16. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That as an emergency traffic signal to comply with agenda item 40 from the 1950 Convention for

Federal QSL Manager, from this Convention and Federal Council for his twenty years of service to the W.A.S."—Carried.

Moved F.E., sec. S.A.: "That a letter be sent to Mr. J. Dobbins, our old friend in the P.M.G.'s Department, who had an unfortunate accident recently and has been in the hospital for some weeks. We might express our regrets at his leaving the world without having been able to attend the Convention."—Carried.

Moved Vic., sec. W.A.: "That the minutes of the Twentieth Annual Federal Convention be adopted."—Carried.

phone use, "Emergency Traffic," and for telegraphy, "QRRR."—Carried.

The amendment became the motion and was carried.

16. Moved F.E., sec. Tas.: "That the derogatory publicity given Amateur in the press during 1950 be discussed with a view to impressing every Division with the necessity to maintain control over the activities of its members by constant policing of their knowledge of the Regulations and good operating procedure."—Carried.

17. Federal Executive withdrew this item in favour of amendment.

18. Moved N.S.W., sec. Vic.: "That the Federal Executive prepare a plan for a war-time emergency network within the Institute if possible using the 50, 144, 575, and possibly 28 Mc. bands with a view to having these frequencies retained for use of the network in time of war and that this plan should be discussed as soon as possible with the Postmaster General and the Director of Civil Defence."—Carried.

19. Moved W.A., sec. Tas.: "That the pages of 'Amateur Radio' be made more open for publication of letters over members' signatures dealing with matters of general interest to Amateur Radio."—Carried.

At this stage the Chairman adjourned the Convention to enable the Editor to make arrangements with the Editor matters relative to the magazine.

19. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the Federal Executive be authorised to take the necessary action to amend item 21 of the Federal Constitution of the Wireless Institute of Australia as amended in 1947 by deleting the words 'within 60 days immediately preceding the closing of the lie thereof 60 days prior to'."—Carried.

20. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That the uniformity of construction be discussed with a view to the finalisation of the draft if possible."—Carried.

20a. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That draft No. 2 of the Uniform Divisional Constitution be submitted to the Divisions for ratification by their members."—Carried.

21. Moved Qld.: "That Federal Executive be instructed to approach the P.M.G.'s Department on the matter of frequency meters, pointing out that properly constructed and calibrated absorption type meter is more useful and fool-proof than the heterodyne meter owing to the fact that it gives a visual indication, is not subject to spurious responses, and is also much cheaper and more likely to be used properly."—Carried.

22. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in view of item 21 lapsing for want of a second mover.

23. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in view of the factual explanation given by the second mover.

24. Moved S.A., sec. Qld.: "That the matter of Commercial Stations in the Amateur Bands be discussed."—Carried.

This item was discussed and the Chairman gave the assembly assurance that every report in by the official Divisional listener was forwarded to the Australian Branch of the Postmaster General's Department where a sizable file was already in evidence. He further indicated that little could be done by the Australian administration until such time as the Atlantic City findings came into force.

25. Moved W.A., sec. S.A.: "That the minimum age limit for the granting of the A.O.C.P. and the Amateur license be 16 years."—Carried.

26. Moved F.E., sec. S.A.: "That Federal Executive approach the P.M.G. Department with a view to requesting that future A.O.C.P. examinations be conducted in the form of a 'quiz' as administered in the United States."—Carried.

27. Moved Qld., sec. Vic.: "That an Australian award of International standing be established, the award to be called W.A.S.S.—meaning 'World's Amateur Service'."—Carried.

The Chairman indicated that with the acquiescence of the Queensland Division, Federal Executive would accept a sub-committee from that Division to consider a detailed set of rules for submission to Federal Council.

28. Moved Tas., sec. W.A.: "That the B.C. be granted separate council status."—Lost.

29. Moved S.A., sec. W.A.: "That the DX C.C. be discussed."—Carried. A discussion took place.

30. Moved F.E., sec. Vic.: "That a standard DX C.C. form be adopted for use by each licensee. Amateurs in the DX C.C. form to be made available to applicants at a cost not exceeding sixpence (6d.) and that the DX C.C. rule as of 1950 Convention be adopted. The DX C.C. form to be amended to incorporate this form."—Carried.

31. Moved N.S.W.: "That Federal Executive be authorised to fallow to fund the New South Wales Memorial Trophy V.H.F. Contest."—The motion lapsed for want of a second.

32. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That the VK-ZL Contest for 1951 be conducted by the N.S.W. Division on behalf of Federal Executive, this Contest to be known as the VK-ZL 1951 Jubilee Contest."—Carried.

33. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive co-opt the New South Wales Divisional Council to the N.S.W. Division of the Federal Contest Committee for the year 1951-52."—Carried.

34. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in lieu of item 33.

35. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in view of the explanation given by the Secretary regarding previous correspondence between the I.A.R.U. and the Federal Executive of the Wireless Institute of Australia with reference to the contest.

36. This item was withdrawn by the South Australian delegate in view of the discussion arising from item 35.

37. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the request by the M.Z.A.R.T. that the W.I.A. include rules as of 1950 Convention be adopted. The rules 8, 9 and 10 as included in the standard set of rules submitted to the 1950 Convention by the South Australian Division be placed in the standardising the rules between the two societies in future."—Carried.

38. Moved N.S.W., sec. Tas.: "That the revised rules for the VK-ZL International DX Contest be attached to the minutes of the twentieth Annual Federal Convention as an appendix."—Carried.

39. Moved S.A., sec. Qld.: "That the Northern Territory be classed as a separate area for Contest purposes."—Carried.

39. Moved S.A., sec. W.A.: "That the rules for the V.H.F. Contest be discussed."—Carried.

40. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the standard Contest Log Sheet be adopted for all Australian Contests. The South Australian delegate submitted on this form."—Carried.

41. Moved Tas., sec. W.A.: "That (a) the winner of the W.I.A. Trophy shall be decided on the basis of an average of the logs as at present and then adding to it a bonus arrived at by multiplying that average by the ratio of the number of licensees in that Division to the total of Amateur licensees in that Division at the time of the Contest. (b) Total points equals: Number of Logs

Average Score 1 plus Number of licensees in Division

and (b) That the present scheme of graduated points for contacts between the various Divisions be retained."—Carried.

42. The South Australian delegate withdrew this item in view of item 41.

43. The Western Australian delegate withdrew this item in view of item 41.

44. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That a special per capita levy of 6d. per member be made on Divisions to defray the cost of the purchase of the Institute's Handbook for the Guidance of Operators and the maintenance of General Executive records and correspondence."—Carried.

After discussing the position of Federal finance with the Chairman, the Chairman said, "Federal Executive will withdraw its request for a special per capita levy of 6d. per member if the Convention will agree to the purchase of the Handbook for the Guidance of Operators to submit to the Divisions another call for assistance at a later stage if necessary."—Carried.

The motion as written was withdrawn.

GENERAL BUSINESS

All Divisions To Ratify

1. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That the policy concerning the R.A.A.F. Wireless Reserve, any substitute plan be discussed and determined."—Carried. The matter was discussed at length.

1a. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That the policy of the Institute concerning co-operation with the R.A.A.F. Wireless Reserve be discussed to actively participate in any official recruiting or defence plans."—Carried.

2. Moved N.S.W., sec. Vic.: "That Federal Executive investigate immediately the alleged imposition of 25 per cent. Sales Tax on Amateur equipment and accessories, and if necessary press to the highest possible authority for its removal."—Carried.

The Chairman gave an assurance that this matter should be taken up with the correct authority in the strongest possible terms within

(Continued on Page 7)

N.S.W. North Coast Zone Easter Convention At Urunga, 1951

REPORT* BY DAVE EVANS, VK2AYE

When a few Radio Amateurs of the North Coast Zone arranged a "get together" at Urunga three years ago, they little realised to what extent the idea would develop. The venture became an established annual event, and the Third Easter Convention at Urunga this year attracted over seventy-eight Amateurs from far and near.

By noon on Good Friday, fifty Amateurs had registered and when the list was closed seventy-eight had completed the formality of registering. In this connection it should be remarked that a number of visitors did not register and anybody who attended and whose names do not appear in the list are requested to advise Hart ZIC so that the list may be completed for record purposes.

List of registrations is as follows: 2APS and XYL, 2AXZ, 2EA, 2ACU, 2ZM, 2AVG, 2AHA, 2XO and XYL, 2AOS, 2ADT, 2WQ, 2KR, 2PA and XYL, Mr. and Mrs. Honey, Colin Wall (associate), 2ASF, 2NX, 2AFY, harmonic David and J. Deller, 2WT and XYL, 2IS, B. Cross (associate), 3OP, 2IT, 2YM, 2FP and XYL, 2ARJ and XYL, 2AJT, 4JU, 2ZC and XYL, 2XN and XYL, 2Z1 (O.I.C. Radio, Sydney Police), G. Gibson (Cine-sound Cameraman), 2AAB, 2ARF, Percy Sara (associate), 2DK and XYL, J. Adkins (associate), 2AMV and XYL, J. Patterson (associate), 2XP, N. Moody (associate), 2YU, H. McAlauy (associate), 2GA, 2AOA and XYL, 2UC and XYL, 4GG, 2CN, 2UY, 2XY, 2ASJ, 2YC, 2ABU and XYL, 2ASO, V. Webb (associate), 2AWC, 2AYE, 2JAP and XYL, 2UC, 2YU and XYL. Last minute cancellations included 2WH, and 2LH and XYL.

Friday was spent in a friendly get together fashion with much incidental rag-chewing—the focal points of interest being Chief Retailick's famous "Do-Me" shack and Hart Wall's newly acquired "Yule Dhu" shack. By general consent and inclination the ladies and tea drinkers were ably entertained by Mrs. Wall at her home, while the really thirsty souls slaked their thirst at the "Do-Me".

Those who had brought portable gear along for the contests were fully employed in testing and repairing the damages wrought by transportation and the gear was inspected by the chaps. The "Do-Me" shack, as Official Headquarters of the Convention, was a hive of activity and excitement. There was a constant buzz of conversation which increased in crescendo as each new arrival was greeted. Possibly the busiest bee in the hive was Colin Wall who had the job of Registrar—in the absence of our Official Recorder, Bob 2MM—and a glance at the list of visitors will confirm that for a single-man chore, Colin did a worthy job.

Saturday maintained the promise of good weather and last minute touches to rigs were carried out. The main event set for Saturday was the Gerry Challenger Remembrance Contest which covered portable field operation on 1 Mc. for three hours within eight miles of Urunga. Disparity in rigs was accounted for by a power input handicap. This event was won by Harold 2AHA, with 140 points, closely followed by Jim 2ZC. It was particularly gratifying to see these two operators determine the home for the trophy since they were both closely associated with the late Gerry and they had made a joint decision that, if either of them won, then the replica of the trophy was to be presented to Gerry's father and mother. A fine gesture which was truly appreciated by Mr. and Mrs. Cowan. The trophy which is illustrated here was donated by friends of the late Gerry and it was found that, after the trophy had been purchased, a substantial amount of cash was on hand and this was forwarded to Gerry's widow, Mrs. Lorna Challenger, and her sons, Barry and Terry.



Gleeson Trophy

The list of contributors to the Challenger Remembrance Trophy is as follows: 2CM £10/0/8, 2DK £2/1/6, 2OU £10/0/0, 2ZX £1, 2XO £1, 2AER 10/-, 2YC 10/-, 2AET 10/-, 2ASO 7/6, 2APS £1/1/-, 2HC 10/-, 2GI 10/-, 2SW 5/-, 4CZ £1, 2LH £1, 2AMV £2 2PA £1, 2KZ 10/-, 2ADT 9/-, 2ASJ 10/-, 2BZ 2/-, 2AOA £1/0/0, 2AS 2CS 10/-, 2WT and Mrs. Watt £2/3/-, 2AWP £2/0/6, 2JC £1/1/-, 2ASE £1, 2ASF £1, 2DG £10/0/6, 2IS 10/0/6, 2YU £10/0/6, 2ARJ £2/1/6, 2AAS £1, 2AWS £2/1/6, 2AAP £1, 2ARY 10/6, 2OQ £1/0/6, 2ARA 10/-, 2WH £1, 2ZC £1/1/-, 2YL £2/1/6, 2AIA 10/-, 2ASA £1, 2RA £1, 2AF 10/-, 2XO 5/-, Assoc. John Adkins £1: total donations £53/14/8, add Guessing Comp. for 1,000 QSLs £16/7/-, making a grand total of £70/1/-, The cost of the Challenger Trophy was £12/1/8, leaving a balance forwarded to Mrs. Challenger of £58.

The replica of the trophy was presented to the Convention by the N.S.W. Division of the Institute.

Saturday evening saw the chaps assembled to wave our ladies off for a bus trip to Coffs Harbour where they were the guests of Jack 2ADN to a picture show. The group then settled down to an important and informative lecture by Sgt. Bert Glascock (VK2ZJ) of the N.S.W. Police Department, on the pros and cons of establishing an emergency network in which Amateurs could co-operate fully with the Police Department. Reference was made to various systems of control now under consideration by the Committee of various interests involved. It is hoped that, at an early date, a statement fully outlining their proposals will be made available to "A.R."

Bert's lecture was well received as it cleared up many points which had, up to this time, been rather mistily understood.

Mr. Ernie Crouch, Chief Engineer of 2NZ and 3GZ, gave a lecture on the new antenna at 3GZ (Inverell) which, it was hoped, would end the end of fading on signals from that station.

Jack 2ADT then described his turret-tuned receiver which tunes from 3.5 Mc. to 50 Mc. Jack went to some pains to point out the snag to be met and the way to overcome them.

On the return of the ladies from Coffs Harbour, refreshments and rag-chewing became the order of the evening and then commenced what must be voted the most successful show of the Convention—a truly "amateur" concert in which the ladies did a great part to maintain a high standard of entertainment until the "wee sma' hours."

Sunday morning was a very pleasant occasion when, with the co-operation of the owners of fifteen or more launches, we were treated to a cruise to the beauty spots of the Lower Beltinger including The Island. Amateurs and competitors lined up in readiness for the 144 Mc. hidden transmitter search. The Gleeson Trophy for this event was won by Harold 2AHA who ran the transmitter to earth in fifteen minutes. The replica of the trophy was donated by the N.S.W. Division.

While their men were madly chasing the hidden transmitter, the YFs and XYLs were taking risks with 2JCs's atomic cocktails while they indulged in a dart throwing championship. This was won by Mrs. Macartney, XYL of 2DK. The "lucky number" was drawn and the recipients of the prizes were 2FP, Ernie and Mrs. Baker. In a voice recognition contest a number of well-known Amateur voices were run off a wire recorder and the winner of the event was Mrs. Russell Watt, XYL of 2WT.

At the "Do-Me" shack, Percy and Mrs. Sara with Mrs. Huggill, entertained the ladies with a special viewing of the world famous quads. This privilege was appreciated by our womenfolk and our thanks are due to Percy and Betty for their co-operation. As a matter of interest, Percy hopes to have his call sign soon, but it won't be VK2QAD although the quads will be featured on his QSL.

The final concert of the Convention was the North Coast Scramble. Object: to work as many stations as possible within one hour. Conditions: any power input, any location, any frequency and no quarter given. John 2AMV, the winner of this event, made a good showing to prevent Harold 2AHA from getting a "hat trick" and carting all the trophies back to Newcastle.

Sunday evening was given over to the usual annual social evening at which we were the hosts of the townspeople of Urunga. The school of Arts was packed to capacity long before the time of starting and extra chairs were imported from adjacent halls to seat the late-comers. Our good friend, Associate Ted Hamey, again attended to the projection of a series of 16 mm. films which were well received. After a spot of community singing, Ivan 2IS conducted the



Challenger Remembrance Trophy

* From Notes supplied by Hart Wall, VK3JC, and article in the Beltinger "Courier-Sun" of 6th April, 1951.

"Amateur Hour by Amateurs" and it was so appreciated that Ivan has been appointed Official Concert Committee for the 1952 Convention.

Mr. M. Goldstein, President of the Shire Council, expressed the pleasure of the citizens of Urunga at having the company of the Radio Amateurs once again and assured us of a hearty welcome at all times. His remarks were endorsed by Mr. D. Foster, the Secretary of the Urunga Progress Association, in a happy little speech spiced with topical interests.

On behalf of the Council and members of the New South Wales Division, Mr. J. Corbett made a speech acknowledging the welcome and friendly relations which we enjoyed with the Urunga Club, the company of the Radio Amateurs and the presentation of prizes by Convention Chairman Haff Wall 2ZC and Convention Organiser Earl Basher 2ZB. At the conclusion of the gift giving a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Crieff for the hard work which he put into the arranging of the Convention and the hope was expressed that next year's Convention will be the biggest and best ever since Crieff has expressed a wish that the position of organiser for 1953 should be taken over by a younger man.

Full list of prize winners is given here: **Gerry Challenger** Rememberance Contest (Challenger Trophy) 1st: 2AHA, Harold Whyte, replica of trophy and £2 cash prize; 2nd: 2ZC, Jim Cowan scope iron, 144 Mc. Hidden Transmitter Search (Gleeson Trophy) 1st: 2AHA, Harold Whyte, replica of trophy and £5 cash prize; 2nd: 2ZC, Jim Cowan, £1/10. North Coast Scramble (United Radio Distributors Trophy) 1st: John Meagher, replica of trophy and 500 QSL cards; 2nd: 2ZC, Jim Cowan, 607; Longest Distance worked: Harold Whyte, prize, packet of metal valves presented by Associate A. Nall. Champion Dart Thrower: Mrs. Macartney, pack of Canastra Cards. Ladies' Lucky Number: Mrs. Ben Baker, Duchess Set presented by Mr. John Hall. Gent's Lucky Number: Ern Baker, 2ZF, 500 QSL cards. Guessing weight of bunch of Bananas: John Walker, 2GA Ladies' Keenest of Voles: Mrs. Russ. Watt, Pearl Necklace and Ear-rings. Fishing Competition: 1st, John Din Wall 2ZC. 2nd, John Din Wall 2ZC. Shaek: Jim Robinson, 2AR, name "Yule Dhu." Ear Basher's Award 1950-51: Dave Evans, 2AYE. Longest Distance Travelled to Convention: Frank O'Dwyer 30F. Guessing Competition for 1,000 QSL cards: 2AGD, George Lee.

The concert concluded at 10.30 p.m. to allow early travellers to get some much needed sleep before their long journey home the next day. Monday morning was occupied by a post-mortem meeting where many good ideas were passed along to Crieff, our Organiser, regarding improvements for next year's show. An outstanding suggestion was that we endeavour to attract a bus to the Interstate Tours type to bring Amateurs from Sydney and to pick up en route. If possible such a service may be extended to include VKA and VKA. If sufficient inducement offers. Since the Convention Crieff (always on the ball) has contacted a Sydney Company who have expressed their willingness to co-operate fully and full details will be published in "A.R." as soon as possible.

It will be realised that Conventions of this nature do cost a tremendous amount of organising and to write Retailclub and his good wife participants extend a really heartfelt vote of

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thanks for their selfless efforts, particularly in view of the fact that Crieff's health has been indifferent for some time past and the enormous expenditure of energy has not assisted him to maintain his usual activity. Our deep gratitude is also due to Percy Sara who has been Crieff's right-hand man before and during the Convention.

The Convention Committee desire to thank the following donors of trophies and prizes for the various events and, in doing so, also extend their thanks to all who assisted in any way to ensure the success and smooth-running of the Convention. **Gleeson Bros.** trophy for 144 Mc. Hidden Transmitter Search; **United Radio Distributors Pty. Ltd.** trophy for North Coast Scramble; **Friends of late Gerry Challenger**, trophy for Portable Field Operation; **Ernie Ashley, 2AAE**, trophy for primitive 2000 Mc. heterodyne, for donation of QSL Cards and pack of Canastra Cards; **Norm Moody**, for cash donation and acting as Official Photographer; **John Hall**, donation of Duchess Set (hand worked); **Dr. Hewitt**, cash donation for prize in Challenge Contest; **Percy and Mrs. Sara, Pearl Earrings and Necklaces**; **Harry Powell, 2ATP**, donation of Scope Iron; **Dave Evans, 2AYE**, donation of 1,000 QSLs for Guessing Competition in aid of Gerry Challenger Trophy Fund; **Members of N.S.W. Div. W.I.A.**, donation of replicas of all trophies; **Jack Green and his Mother**, for their help in the Sunday evening contest; **The Unknown Young Laddie**, for his entertaining session with the guitar and hill-billy songs; **Bob White and Dan Foster**, for the use of their "shacks"; **Mr. and Mrs. Daley**, for the loan of their cottage; **"Chick" Macartney and Norm Moody**, for service as Transport Officers; **Jack Gerard, 2ADN**, host to our ladies at the Picture Night; **Ted Hamey**, for the bunches of bananas and putting on the 16 m.m. show; **Jim Dewnde**, for the "welcome" cards; **Nicholas Gleeson and Theo Cummings**, our genial hosts at the Ocean View Hotel without whose co-operation the Convention could never be successful.

For the information of Sydney Amateurs, Messrs. John Martin Pty. Ltd. have the trophies on display in a special window show featuring Amateur Radio activities. A number of photographs taken at Urunga are also on display and copies may be obtained by those interested.

In conclusion, the Convention Committee desire to thank all who attended and ensured the success of the show and sincerely hope to meet them all again next Easter for Amateur Radio's Best and Brightest Show.

FEDERAL CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 5)

seven days of the conclusion of the Convention, and that a copy of all correspondence would be forwarded to Federal Councillors.

3. Moved N.S.W., sec. Vic.: "That it be the policy of the Wireless Institute of Australia NOT to refuse any facilities granted by the Postmaster General."—Carried.

4. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That the Federal Council consider the latest figures concerning 'Amateur Radio'."—Carried.

5. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive be instructed to take the necessary action to amend Section 28 of the Federal Constitution by (a) Deleting the words 'the Headquarters' in line 3 and (b) inserting the word 'any' in lieu thereof, and (c) Deleting the words 'the Headquarters' in line 7 and inserting the word 'appropriate' in lieu thereof."—Carried.

6. Moved Vic., sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive approach the Postmaster General's Department with a view to allowing mobile operation on a frequency of 28-30 Mc. as now allowed on the bands of 50 Mc. and above, such permission to be granted without applying to the Department."—The Victorian Executive drew this item with the agreement of his second in view of the explanation given by the Chairman.

7. Moved Qld., sec. Tas.: "That the P.M.G.'s Department be approached with a view to permitting the postage rates on QSL cards as second-class mail matter (post card rates) so long as such cards bear only information concerning radio contacts referred to on the cards."—Carried.

8. Moved N.S.W., sec. Vic.: "That the P.M.G.'s Department be instructed to allocate the prefix VKA to Amateurs resident in the Northern Territory."—Carried.

9. Moved F.E., sec. Vic.: "That Federal Executive be authorized to purchase a typewriter and a filing cabinet for Federal Executive records and correspondence, the cost to be met from No. 1 account."—Carried.

Ross Hull Memorial Trophy Results of 50 Mc. Contest, 1951

Open Division

| | |
|------------|------|
| (1) V5QR | 3380 |
| (2) VK2ADT | 2851 |
| (3) VK5BC | 2564 |

Individual State Winners

New South Wales—VK2ADT.
 Victoria—VK3IM.
 Queensland—VK4KK.
 South Australia—VK5QR.
 Western Australia—VK6DW.
 Tasmania—VK7LZ.

New Zealand Winners

| | |
|-----------|------|
| (1) ZL2BJ | 1117 |
| (2) ZL1WW | 960 |
| (3) ZL2DS | 420 |

Low Drift Crystals FOR AMATEUR BANDS

ACCURACY 0.02% OF
STATED FREQUENCY

3.5 Mc. and 7 Mc.

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Unmounted | £2 0 0 |
| Mounted | £2 10 0 |

12.5 and 14 Mc. Fundamental
Crystals, "Low Drift,"
Mounted only, £5.

Spot Frequency Crystals
Prices on Application.

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Regrinds | £1 0 0 |
|----------|--------|

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INCLUDE SALES TAX.

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 15 CLAREMONT CRES.,
 CANTERBURY, E.7,
 VICTORIA

DX NOTES BY VK4QL

IONOSPHERIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR BANDS

JUNE, 1951

Overall, April has been my worst month for DX. Stations in the south do not seem to have faded so badly, judging by the stations I have heard there, worked by or calling. ZLs also seemed to be doing OK.

This month produced one of the greatest DX hunts that has been on for a long time, due to the efforts of CM9AA and KV4AA. CM9AA went over to Guadalupe Island for approximately 13 days to operate as FG7XA. KV4AA made an effort to tell all he could of the mission, with the result that after zero hour, hundreds of people were listening for one thing, the call FG7XA. Nothing was heard on the band for a couple of days and one overseas station in the hearing range may have forgotten his crystals. Even KV4AA heard nothing. However on the 17th, he apparently showed up and was worked by the VK gang; just what I do not know as I was not on that night. VK9GW worked him one morning round 2000 G.M.T., but there was no sign here. However, FG7XA appeared for a brief period on 24th, but the band suddenly gave out and he went with it. The following day he was audible from 0630 G.M.T. and worked quite a few VK on c.w. and phone, although his phone signals were not audible here. From information heard on the band, there are apparently other stations signing the FG prefix. ZDG said he worked FG8IP.

The survey of the bands is not very satisfying this month. 35 Mc.—Have not been on this band yet, although my visits were of no DX value. ZDG worked OAAEL there one night round 0900 G.M.T.

7 Mc.—This band has fallen right away for DX and is confirmed by a contact with one or two DX stations there were worked in Europe and South Africa. W signals in the evenings have been very erratic and not consistent for two consecutive nights. One evening GCLC was heard about 0730 G.M.T.

Listings for the month are very few, even the usual VKs seem to have deserted this band. One or two ZS, ZSTD, CTIDJ, VQ2GW, DLADN, ZDG hooked V8BAM and CTBBS, 3FH worked VPBSB and FG7XA.

14 Mc.—This band has been very patchy, at times high solar noise, but the Europeans have started to appear at the end of the month round 2000 G.M.T., and extremely erratic and hard to raise. On the 14th a minor opening appeared in the afternoon. One night a couple of stations were heard playing games with the commercial station in the band with the very chirpy and broad note. They were continually holding their bug on this, and their a.c. back and forth over the commercial. A slice of luck happened with FB8ZZ one night. The band was in poor shape due to Solar noise, when FB8ZZ appeared. He disappeared again during the second over and was not heard again. Gave his QTH as Amsterdam Island. ABG said 0600 to 0800 G.M.T. has been OK for Europe in Maryborough, then dead for a few hours, but improving round 2000 G.M.T.

27MG heard stations signing SLSCM and SL7AF, and their QTH was given as Island of Goeland, and appeared to be a new country, being part of Sweden. Talking of new prefixes, "QST" says 954 prefix is not a new country, so if you have chalked it up as one, it's bad luck.

Listings for the month here are: KX6BI (Navy 324, F.P.O., "Frisco"), FG7XA, ZBIBS, ZBLZ, C88AF, FB8ZZ, V8IG, FVTV, GUAD, Cairo, QSL via A.R.R.L., VPALZ, LA8Q, HPID, T14MAR, ZDMAE, V9CADI, VPVCS, UG5WD, UP2KBZ, E19Y, YSIO, 954AL, EA8AF.

4BG worked/heard stations like SKIAO, MB8BJ, ZK1AB, PK8IC, KJ6AI, EA8AF, ZBIBS, VP8FO, VP8GJ, VP8SD, PY1GJ, ZCUNU, HS3L (which I think should be HS3L), VKIRB, and C88AF.

2DG lists PJ5RE, FG8IP, VP8AI, FC3CD, and FG7XA. 2ANN landed IINU/Trieste.

28 Mc.—Have very little on this band. Any time I have listened the band has been mostly poor, or only the usual Pacific stations coming through.

An interesting piece of information comes from KGEHU, on a matter I mentioned previously, as to certain restrictions on Amateur operation in the Pacific area by the U.S. authorities. Stations west of 170 degrees long. are not permitted to operate on 3.5 Mc. Stations west of KGE are not permitted to operate on 7 Mc. This includes Hawaii. All stations operating in the Pacific (U.S. bases) are registered by the U.S. Navy authorities.

2PG, ex-1PG is now operating again, and asks all who are anxiously waiting his QSL, not to panic. All is under control and QSL's will soon be on their way. These boys must have a colossal job making up the back log of cards. VKIHW has done his.

2ANN has now 98 countries confirmed: ZDG 162, the latest being ZS3X and Y18ECU. 3CX has just built up his list with cards from KJ6AI, VPACQ, VQ2GW, K8AB, V8AF, V8IF and VKIHW. New ones worked this month have brought my total worked to 151 with 99 confirmed, cards being from ZS3X, Y02BC, ZS3K, CTBEC, 954AX and VKIHW.

Notes have been prepared a little early this month as I am having a spot of leave, so if any "gen" does arrive this month too late, it will be included next month.

My thanks to all those who have helped out this month with the material to make up some "gen".

● The thought for the month, is a suggestion that we all look at the T section of the RST code, and see that T9 means a pure note, not a rough one. Cheers till next month.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.I.A. members are requested to promptly notify any change of address to their Divisional Secretary, not direct to "Amateur Radio."

The accompanying charts have been prepared by the Ionospheric Prediction Service of the Commonwealth Observatory. The first of the series was published in the November, 1948, issue of this magazine, together with an article explaining the nature of the forecasts and how to use them. Nine of the charts, prefixed by the letter "C" for Canberra, refer to forecasts for the South-Eastern Australian States. The remainder, prefixed by the letter "P" for Perth, are for Western Australia.

The Canberra charts refer to the following world zones:—

| Zone | Region | Terminal |
|------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | Western Europe | London |
| 2. | Mediterranean | Cairo |
| 3. | N.-West America | San Francisco |
| 3a. | N.-East America | New York |
| 4. | Central America | Barbados |
| 5. | South Africa | Capetown |
| 6. | Far East | Manila |

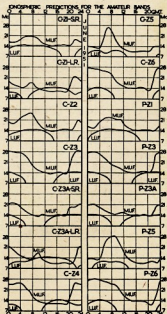
The forecasts have actually been prepared for point-to-point circuits between Canberra and the overseas terminals mentioned in the above table. It is, however, to be expected that the charts will provide an approximate indication of ionospheric conditions for all Amateur contacts from South Eastern Australia to the various world zones.

The Perth charts are similar to those based on Canberra. No forecasts are given from Perth to Zones 23 and 24 for the current months, as chart P-23 would be essentially similar to chart P-21, while chart P-24 might be unreliable due to auroral activity in high northern latitudes.

USE OF CHARTS

All that is necessary in using the charts is to select a time (G.M.T.) during which a specified Amateur band frequency is below the maximum usable frequency (M.U.F.) of the F2 region of the ionosphere but above the lowest useful frequency (L.U.F.) for the desired contact. In two cases, Zones 1 and 3a, it is necessary to consult both the short-route (S.R.) chart and the following long-route (L.R.) chart.

The Prediction Service welcomes comments on the accuracy of its predictions. These should be forwarded through the W.I.A.



DX C.C. LISTING

| PHONE | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| Call | No. Ctr. | Call | No. Ctr. |
| VK3JD | 1 155 | VK4AP | 8 114 |
| VK3R | 10 154 | VK4RW | 17 104 |
| VK8RU | 4 145 | VK4WJ | 14 112 |
| VK6KW | 4 145 | VK2ADT | 13 102 |
| VK3BZ | 3 141 | VK2AHA | 15 102 |
| VK3KS | 1 135 | VK4WJ | 15 102 |
| VK3LN | 11 132 | VK3GG | 18 100 |
| VK4HR | 12 129 | VK3JG | 5 100 |
| VK6DD | 6 126 | VK3JG | 7 100 |
| CW | | | |
| Call | No. Ctr. | Call | No. Ctr. |
| VK3BZ | 6 183 | VK3XX | 30 114 |
| VK3PF | 15 160 | VK4DA | 7 113 |
| VK3R | 9 158 | VK7LZ | 17 112 |
| VK2EO | 2 152 | VK3BO | 33 116 |
| VK3CN | 1 151 | VK3JG | 21 108 |
| VK3KA | 2 150 | VK4RC | 27 107 |
| VK3QL | 5 141 | VK3YD | 27 105 |
| VK3VW | 4 140 | VK6PF | 31 105 |
| VK3R | 10 138 | VK3YJ | 25 104 |
| VK4HR | 8 135 | VK2YC | 34 103 |
| VK2GW | 16 132 | VK3AFA | 14 101 |
| VK6RU | 18 132 | VK3NC | 19 101 |
| VK3R | 10 130 | VK3YJ | 26 101 |
| VK4RF | 11 125 | VK2OA | 32 101 |
| VK3EK | 3 122 | VKTRK | 22 100 |
| VK3R | 20 117 | VK7LJ | 30 100 |
| VK3UM | 12 116 | VK2AEZ | 33 100 |
| VK4FJ | 29 115 | | |
| OPEN | | | |
| Call | No. Ctr. | Call | No. Ctr. |
| VK3BZ | 4 202 | VK3JA | 43 114 |
| VK6RU | 8 179 | VK2ADT | 14 113 |
| VK4HR | 7 171 | VK4RC | 21 110 |
| VK3R | 1 167 | VK4WJ | 40 109 |
| VK6KW | 13 165 | VK2ZC | 25 108 |
| VK3JD | 2 160 | VK3YJ | 11 106 |
| VK3JE | 12 154 | VK3JG | 33 105 |
| VK4EL | 10 158 | VK3AWN | 36 105 |
| VK4R | 24 149 | VK3YV | 27 104 |
| VK4DO | 15 145 | VK4UL | 27 104 |
| VK3MC | 5 139 | VK6PJ | 44 104 |
| VK3OB | 19 137 | VK2HZ | 17 103 |
| VK6DD | 22 136 | VK3YV | 30 103 |
| VK3LN | 29 135 | VK2TJ | 37 103 |
| VK4FJ | 32 135 | VK3HO | 38 103 |
| VK3ADE | 28 133 | VK3YV | 30 103 |
| VK2AHA | 9 128 | VKTRK | 31 102 |
| VK2AHM | 20 125 | VK4YJ | 35 102 |
| VK3R | 16 123 | VK3ACX | 6 100 |
| VK3HT | 41 117 | VK2TG | 6 100 |
| VK7LZ | 23 118 | VK3AWW | 45 100 |
| VK5FL | 28 116 | | |

FIFTY MEGACYCLE AND ABOVE

Compiled by J. K. RIDGWAY, VK3CR.

50 Mc. news from the Darwin area comes in a letter from Bill Wright, VK5CN, who sends details of his plans for work on this band.

Bill is at present running his 6 metre transmitter in parallel with his 40, 40 and 10 metre rigs and will continue to do so in addition to running automatic transmission using m.c.w. The transmitter runs at 35 watts to an 807 and the two element beam is fixed on VK3. No receiving gear for 6 metres is at present available, but a crystal controlled converter is under construction and will be used in conjunction with an ART receiver. He has never operated on 6 before, so is a little in the dark as to what to expect from the band. The station frequency is 50.8 Mc. and will be heard signing VK5CN or VK5IR (who will take over operations when SCN is available).

For those interested in contacting Bill per letter, his full address is: A4420, L.A.C. Wright, A. W. H. Signals Section, R.A.A.F. Station, Darwin, N.T. Good luck Bill!

GENERAL N.S.W. V.H.F. NEWS

The V.H.F. Section meeting was held on the 6th April, being very well attended. Mr. Court Hean, of A.W.A., provided a most interesting lecture on V.H.F. and U.H.F. Antennae, using an epidiscscope to illustrate the lecture. Mr. Hean explained the working of the Smith Chart Calculator which is used in conjunction with a measuring line to determine impedance reactance in antenna design. He also stressed the importance of omni-directional arrays such as the turnstile and slot. At the meeting the recently elected officers took over and a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers.

On 15th April, the field day was held, the weather being as near perfect as could be desired. Thirteen stations took the field and operated on 50, 144 and 578 Mc., although most of the equipment for the latter band broke down and no contacts were made on 578 Mc.

144 Mc. proved the most popular band and was packed with signals all day. Three of the stations used crystal controlled rigs for their portable work, and if provided with anything to go they will be considerably more crystal rigs next time! Further afield was 2RQ who took most of the South West Coast to 144 Mc. and some 27K made up Kiama, about 90 miles south of Sydney. They took along a small petrol electric outfit which gave them 144 volts a.c.—some 27K made up a week-end jaunt of it and anchored somewhere in the Blue Mountains for the night, but did not work anyone during the Saturday evening.

The contest held during the field day proved popular, being split into two rounds, so there was never any shortage of stations to be worked. Results of this Contest are—1st, VK2AET 32 and VK2ARF 32, 2nd, VK2ADY 37. The prize for the highest score consisted of a pair of RL18s and one 935—sufficient valves to make a start on 578 Mc. These items were donated by Cec Cronan, the V.H.F. Section Secretary.

50 Mc.—This band has been very quiet over the month since the 2X left us. 2RU reports the band open to VK5 on one occasion, but Major couldn't make himself heard and no contacts were made. The beacons have been mostly absent but early in the month Perth was heard on 50 Mc.

Most consistent station on 50 Mc. is 2QZ who has been writing these notes until this month, but fails to contact any evening and rarely fails to contact anyone during the day on the band. A new station is 2ABW, of Kingsford. Berry is putting out a very strong signal using 807s in the final. 2AG has made a comeback, having done things to what he described as his "vile" beam rotating motor. Having heard of this it is not making his rig's receiver, one is inclined to agree with him!

2GA of Etalong has been heard frequently lately and puts out a very strong signal over the distance and difficult path. His near neighbour, 2KR, has also been heard but Cec is a very weak signal. The only other station we may hear more of the "Yabbie Caltcher". 2ANK has been trying out a half watt outfit running from dry batteries and gets out extremely well, but the whole lot is being taken out for him when he went mobile marine early in the month, but no contact was made as he did not get 2XZ's call. The whole lot is a share of trouble lately, but Ted generally comes out on top. 2VW has moved up from his 50 Mc. point and may be heard on 144 Mc. I doubt this is to assist in populating the high end of the band!

144 Mc.—This band has been fairly active and a considerable amount of mobile work has been done of late. The Sydney area is fairly well suited to this type of work, particularly along the heights of the north side of the City. Stations heard mobile are 2FK, 2AZO, 2YM, 2ANF, 2ACII, 2ABZ and 2AQO.

More crystal controlled rigs are appearing for mobile work and a number of others are either under construction or projected. One particular limitation is the difficulty of getting a portable to the final 676, this little extra gives a good account of itself.

The "Halo" antenna is also creating interest amongst portable mobile stations. It has proved far superior to the dipole, particularly in poor locations. For those interested, dimensions are as follows: Diameter of loop 7 in. end plates 2 1/4 in. diameter approx. 1/2 in. apart. Main element is made from 3/8 in. o.d. tubing and is driven by a section of 1/2 in. o.d. tubing, centre to centre from the main element, are made from 3/16 in. o.d. tubing. In appearance it is identical to the 50 Mc. "Halo". It is in the A.R.R.L. Handbook. The "Halo" is fed with 75 ohm twin lead.

2AZJ has acquired a complete 32. 2QZ has appeared on c.w. on the high end of the band and hopes to get a modulator going shortly; Bob is running an 832 in the final and using a beam which has to be brought in every time it rains. 2JY has now got gone going, plans to go crystal control. 2AZO and 2ANF have both built crystal rigs for portable work. 2JW in Sunday morning 2WI relay directed at VK3, has been discontinued until conditions are more likely to favour a signal getting in.

2BG has taken the matrimonial plunge and held a pre-wedding party which resembled a v.h.f. convention. The cake was appropriately topped with a real-down replica of Bruce's 50 and 144 Mc. beams.

578 Mc.—Despite the failure of the equipment during the field day interest still continues on this band. 2AJZ and 2WJ are on each evening working cross-band from 144 and 2ABH often joins in. The chaps down south seem to have

given the band away which is a pity as they were doing some good work. 2XX now has a pair of RL18s going instead of one and his signal improved accordingly. Howard has found that his helical antenna is just about failing to pieces, the screen reflector having rusted badly.

VICTORIAN V.H.F. GROUP NOTES

Next Group meeting will be Wednesday 29th June at the rooms, 191 Queen Street. Listen to 3WI broadcasts for details of any lecture, talk or demonstration that may be arranged and make a note of the time in any case, for an interesting evening is assured.

Twenty members at the April meeting gave their attention to the effects of field activity for the next year, reports of field day activities, 3WI v.h.f. transmitters, the possibilities of construction of portable rigs, and the call to the Group and snapped up about 30 odd disposals crystals. In addition, a letter was received from VK7MM, who had made an exciter for 144 Mc. for publication in "A.R." This was in response to our recent suggestion that publication of more technical articles on construction of v.h.f. gear may help to populate these bands.

Office-bearers elected for the next year are as follows: Chairman, VJQ; Secretary, 3ALK; Vice-Chairman, 3FO, 3YS, 3AJJ; Notes Writer, 3JO.

Reports on the April field day were given by 3FO, 3YS and 3JO. Activity generally was not so good as previously, though two new calls on 144 Mc., 3ADU and 3ANX, were heard and contacts were made over the hills. 3WJ, 3MC, by some of the portable stations. Results of the Contest are not yet to hand but will be published next month. It is worth noting to note that a large number of logs has been received.

Lack of suitable power supplies is keeping the 3WI and 144 Mc. transmitters off the air. 3ABA reported that the power tranny donated for the job won't deliver the goods on load. After discussion a line action was decided on and since three Group members are also Divisional Councilors, it is not too much to hope that this will be sorted out.

The news that tropospheric predictions by the Federal Ionospheric and Tropospheric Service, already supplying ionospheric predictions to the Group, were so favourable to the Group was received with great interest, and as the appointment of an officer to handle these predictions is the first step in the process, it should not be long before we have the opportunity to avail ourselves of this service.

All crystals were soon disposed of and the meeting ended on a very happy note of thanks to the office-bearers of the last twelve months.

Stop Press.—The Field Day Contest winners are 3YS, portable section; 3EN, home section.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTR.

Main interest is still concentrated on the 288 Mc. band and quite a lot of stations are active. 5GR has a crystal transmitter consisting of three stages using 6J6s and 832 final, with an eight element beam. 5GL has his xtal converter working nicely. 5JD heard testing small rig on 7 Mc. but still plugging v.h.f. Idea is to QSO country, Hams on 7 Mc. and give them any gen to get them on 50 or above.

On a recent Sunday morning 5AX had an S9 signal in Adelaide on 50 Mc., but mod. was low. A new signal on 50 Mc. is 52Y and states that he is there to stay. 5AX has bought a new gear for 144. 50 Mc. men should not lose sight of the fact that there will be some openings during the winter months when the weather is just that gear ready and listen at odd times. 5QR reports improvement in signal strengths since changing from 300 to 3000 Mc. beam. I expect some to feed the beam and not so prone to break.

Acknowledgments to VKs 2ANF, 3JO, 5KL and 5CN for the above material.

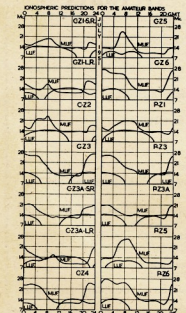
FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

The following is a list of the bands available for use by the Amateur Service in Australia, following the by-laws of emission allowed on those bands.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3.5 to | 3.8 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3. |
| 7.0 to | 7.3 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3. |
| 14.0 to | 14.4 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3. |
| 26.96 to | 27.23 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3. |
| 28.0 to | 30.0 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3. |
| 50.0 to | 54.0 Mc.—A1, 2, 3, F.M. |
| 144 to | 148 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 228 to | 296 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 385 to | 430 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 1215 to | 1300 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 2300 to | 2450 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 3600 to | 3850 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 10000 to | 10500 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 21000 to | 22500 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |
| 30000 Mc. and higher— | A0, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse. |

50 Mc. W.A.S. Certificate Additional Number Countries

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|----|-------|----|
| VKARY | ..... | 20 | ..... | 20 |
| VK3VW | ..... | 9 | ..... | 9 |
| VK3DW | ..... | 9 | ..... | 9 |
| VK4HR | ..... | 4 | ..... | 4 |
| VK3PG | ..... | 5 | ..... | 5 |
| VK3VW | ..... | 9 | ..... | 9 |
| VK3HT | ..... | 9 | ..... | 9 |
| VK3AEZ | ..... | 10 | ..... | 10 |
| VK3XA | ..... | 11 | ..... | 11 |
| VK3XG | ..... | 8 | ..... | 8 |
| VK3ABC | ..... | 8 | ..... | 8 |



Compact 40 Metre Antenna

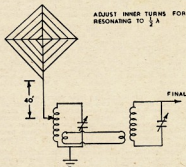
BY TED CAWTHRON,* VK5JE

The author has been experimenting with an antenna which may interest those Amateurs who, due to lack of space, may not be able to put up a half wave antenna for operation on 7 Mc. The writer was only able to put up one mast which was very close to a fence and which prevented a sloping antenna being used in a westerly direction, thus ruling out early morning European contacts. As the mast is 40 feet high, the idea was hit upon trying to make the antenna tune to a half wave in preference to a quarter wave due to the sandy nature of the surrounding terrain.

At the top of the 40 feet vertical a frame consisting of two crosspieces at right angles, each one four feet long, was attached. A number of "button" type insulators were screwed to the cross members, spaced about three inches apart, and the remaining portion of the antenna wound in the form of a spiral until the antenna resonated at a half wave of the desired frequency. Due to the inductive effect of the coil the full 26 feet or so may not be needed.

The procedure to tune the antenna is as follows: Link couple the final plate coil to the antenna coupler and tune the latter to resonance, being careful not

to over-couple. Attach the antenna to the antenna coil and note how the tuning condenser has to be turned to effect resonance. If the condenser has to be reduced in value then the antenna is too long and vice versa.



Adjust the inner turns of the top loop until attaching the antenna to the antenna coupler does not affect its tuning. Due to various factors such as varying the link placement in the coils it may be a little bit tricky to get the adjustment right at first trial. Attaching an earth to one end of the antenna coupler may be advisable—the writer uses this method.

However, this antenna is only put forward as an idea and may be worth experimenting with. On 7 Mc., early morning European reports range from S7 to S5 and the DX quoted in the "DX Notes" have all been worked with it. On 14 Mc. during the B.E.R.U. Contest, when conditions were rather poor, VS6 (S9), VS1 (S7), ZS (S4), GW (S5), and VU (S8) were worked with the reports as shown.

On 3.5 Mc. the antenna failed to raise Ws during the A.R.R.L. Contest, but three S7 reports were received from ZL which was encouraging and further experiments are to be made on this band.

A few things to think about. See if the orientation of the frame is of any help. Keep the insulation good on the frame and the wires rigid or wet weather will cause erratic results. Turn a deaf ear to the XYL and others who say the outfit looks like a radar set-up on a battleship. Good hunting!

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FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

Federal President: G. GLOVER (VK3AG); Federal Secretary: G. M. HULL (VK3ZB); Box 3811W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

NEW SOUTH WALES

President: J. Corbin, VK3YC.
Secretary: David H. Duff (VK3EO), Box 1734 G.P.O., Sydney.

Meeting Night: Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Don B. Knock, VK2NO, 43 Yanko Avenue, Waverley, Sydney.

Zone Correspondents: North Coast and Tablelands: J. M. Retallick, VK3QO, Raleigh; Newcastle: H. Whyte, VK2AHA, Vale St., Birmingham, Glasgow; Central: C. Waring, VK3YV, H. Hawkins, VK3YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock; Western: W. H. Stitt, VK2WIL, Cumby, Forbes; South Coast and Southern: R. H. Rayner, VK2XD, 42 Pettit St., Yass; Western Suburbs: A. C. Pearce, VK2AIB, 151A Balmoral Rd., Leichhardt; Eastern Suburbs: D. B. Knock, VK2NO, 43 Yanko Ave., Waverley; North Sydney: L. D. Cuffe, VK2AM, 779 Military Rd., Mosman; St. George: J. A. Ackmann, VK3JG, 32 Park Rd., Carlton; South Sydney: V. H. Wilson, VK2VW, Cr. Wilson St. and Marine Pde., Maroubra.

VICTORIA

President: G. S. C. Semmens, VK3GS.
Secretary: C. Dyer (VK3JD), 19 Collington Ave., Brighton (C. 628).

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. S. May, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melbourne.

Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Rohn School, North Technical College.

Zone Correspondents: Western: C. C. Waring, VK3YV, 12 Skene St., Stawell; South Western: K. O'Rourke, VK2AKR, Killgrew, Westmore; North Eastern: T. K. Waring, VK3YV, Theatre, Tatura; Far North West: M. Folie, VK3JG, 101 Lennon Ave., Mildura; Eastern: H. O. Wilson, VK2WIL, Cumby, Forbes; Western: C. Case, VK2ACE, Cumby, Forbes.

FEDERAL

INVITATION TO SEATTLE U.S.A. 1951 NATIONAL CONVENTION A.E.R.L.

An invitation to Australian Amateurs has been received from John Grubie, W1RT, General Chairman of the Seattle 1951 National Convention A.E.R.L., to be present during this Convention.

The Convention is to be held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., on the 27th and 28th of July, during which time Seattle is also celebrating its Centennial Year.

Any Australian Amateurs who may perchance be travelling in the States at this time and who would like to attend this Convention can contact John Grubie at 1921 Atlantic Street, Seattle 44, Washington, U.S.A.

Exhibits and words of many kinds have been organised and guests will see the fastest speed-bus in the world in action. Good luck to anyone who has the chance!

FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT PERMITTED

A letter received recently from the President of a prominent French Amateur Society gave voice to the fact that a VK Amateur had been singled out for criticism by the U.A. for having conducted QSOs in French. If any such action did occur—and Federal Executive have not seemed to be aware of it—would you please inform the Amateur Advisory Committee or the Postmaster-General's Department.

However, whether the report is factual or otherwise, does bring up the point of VK Amateurs conducting phone QSOs in a foreign language. For the information of all members we quote Part 2, Para. 32 of the "Handbook for the Guidance of Operators of Amateur Wireless Transmitting Stations," which reads as follows:—

"An Amateur Station Licensee may transmit in English and receive in any recognised languages plain language messages (i.e. not in code) and may bring up the point of VK Amateurs conducting phone QSOs in a foreign language. For the information of all members we quote Part 2, Para. 32 of the "Handbook for the Guidance of Operators of Amateur Wireless Transmitting Stations," which reads as follows:—

"The regulation clearly states you can receive in any recognised languages, but you can only transmit in English.

"Box four on my Au revoir," may be overlooked, but attempts to conduct QSOs completely in a foreign language is contrary to the Regulations.

WI BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7195 Kc. and 2000 hours EST 50 and 144 Mc. No inter-State or international checks available for VK3WI. Intra-State working frequency, 7175 Kc.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3590 and 7195 Kc. and re-broadcast on 50 and 144 Mc. bands. Intra-State working frequency 7185 Kc. Individual frequency checks at Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

VK4WI: Sundays, 0900 hours EST, simultaneously on 3750 Kc., 7195 Kc., 1542 Kc., 52.4 Mc. and 144.138 Mc. Frequency checks are given two nights weekly, and the times are announced during Sunday broadcasts. 7065 Kc. channel is used from 1000 to 1300 hours each Sunday as VK4 query service to VK4WI.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1000 hours EAST, on 7195 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK3WD by arrangements only on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

VK3WI: Sundays, 0930 hours WEST, on 7195 Kc. No frequency check available.

VK3WI: Sundays, at 1000 hours EST, on 7195 Kc. No frequency checks are available.

AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS RESTRICTED BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES

For the interest of the DX boys the U.S. Department of State has provided the I.A.R.U. with the following information (to and including Oct. 13, 1950) concerning the limitation of Amateur communications by certain countries.

Administrations which forbid radio communications between their Amateur Stations and Amateur Stations in other countries are:—Indonesia, Japan, and the United Nations Station of Allied Occupation Forces as authorised by the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers.

Administrations which forbid all Amateur Radio operation: Indo-China, Iran, Lebanon, Netherlands Antilles, Thailand.

The Administration in Austria permits the reception of foreign Amateur Station transmissions, but transmissions by Austrian Amateur Stations are strictly forbidden by the Allied control authorities in Austria.

FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER

Had the good fortune to QSO an old-timer at end of April. Said old-timer was John D. Oile, ex-VK2QZ. John also held VR and VP calls at one stage. Now Major Oile of the permanent army and on liaison duties in England. John was operating an army club transmitter under the call sign of G3DMZ on 14 Mc. at Churchchurch, Hants. He informed me that his own call sign was G3JFO and that he expected to be in England until 1952. He stated he was kepted and transmitted by Australian Army ex-VK3UM who was not active on the air from G. Seema only yesterday when I used to contact John on 1 Mc. at his home location of Ashfield, Sydney, but logs show that it was 1930. Writes Mario Pereira, CTRAF, Box 264, Lour-enço Marques, Portuguese East Africa, under the date of March 20, 1951. I will be grateful if you can get the QSL cards from the following OMs: VK3VU, 1FE, 1RA; VK3YL, 2ZH, 2SA, 2NS, 2TH; VK3CM, 3CG, 3YF, 3CN, 3Z, 3FS, 3DQ, 3PL, 3BD; VK3ARF, 4CG, 4HR; VK3JS; VK3GJ, 5WR; VK3JH. If any of these Hams have not yet received my card I will be very pleased to send them a second one." While there are a few tough men listed above, there are also many honorable and reliable Hams listed and it would be a pity if any of these laywre with the P.O. or Bureau facilities in CK7.

QUEENSLAND

President: J. H. Farrell, VK4WJ.
Secretary: J. F. Pickles, VK4FF, Box 6387, G.P.O., Brisbane.

Meeting Night: Third Friday in each month at the I.R.E. Rooms, Wickham St., Valley.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Clive J. Cooke, VK4CC, Kurran Street, Chermiside, Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President: E. A. Barbier, VK5MD.
Secretary: G. M. Bowen, VK5XU, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide.

Meeting Night: Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.

Divisional Sub-Editor: W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 10 Victoria Avenue, Rose Park.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: J. Campbell-Watson, VK3JW.
Secretary: H. B. Lang, Box NI002, G.P.O., Perth, W.A.

Meeting Place: Padbury House, Cr. St. George's Ter. and King St., Perth.

Meeting Night: Third Tuesday of each month.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Alec A. Smith, VK3AS, 75 Weston St., Carlisle, Western Australia.

TASMANIA

President: J. Brown, VK7BJ.
Secretary: R. D. O'May, VK7OM, Box 371B, G.P.O., Hobart.

Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 163 Liverpool St., Hobart.

Divisional Sub-Editor: S. Excell, VK7SJ, 77 Gile St., Hobart, Tasmania.

North Zone Correspondent: C. A. Cullinan, VK7IX, 12 Montrose Place, Launceston.

The QSL Manager of the C.R.A.G., Box 13, Guatemala, advises that 30 cards were received for TG9FB, 10 of the cards were from VK. He states that the station named in a "black book" has been returned the cards. He also advises that TG9FB does not live in Guatemala and is also a pirate.

A fair sized batch of cards has just come to hand from the PHOTAD, Trucial Oman, for contact during the past few days. The station ran the station has returned to England and has got busy catching up on arrears of QSLs.

Am indebted to Ron Mould, VK3FM, and to Arch Barrie, VK3GB, who both wrote and gave details of the doings and personnel located in Rabaul. Arch explains that for some unaccountable reason his cards have not yet arrived in Rabaul, but he will get busy on the QSLs as soon as the cards hit the deck. Photos of his layout show a neat rig with 6V6 xtal/v.f.o., 807 btr/dbtr., 2 parallel 607s with 100 watts Rx is an AR7 not yet hotted up. Intends trying plate modulation shortly but until then is on a 6V6. Arch held down the call signs of ZL1OH and ZL1GS when in his home town of Auckland. Ron informs me that there are three Hams at present in Rabaul, the third being John Garrett, VK3KA, who is presently located at Koppo about 32 miles from Rabaul, but shortly hopes to move in to Koppo. Arch mentions he re-built rig to 6V6, 6V6 dbtr., to 829 and states that his YL is interested in the Ham game also. Arch is an C.T.C. operator, Ron Mould is with D.C.A., and Ron Garrett is with Burns Philp.

Felix Franchette, FK8AC, spent a pleasant holiday in Australia during April. Felix divided his time between Sydney and Melbourne and took an many friends and family who have been and business permitted. Felix, during a visit to VK3ABA, was delighted at being able to locate in the home of a QSO with VK3ZL and VK3GM, of Ballarat.

FGTXA Gaudeloupe has been on 14015 Kc. during first half of April. From WACC comes the following interesting information regarding this rare country and station which has been contacted by many VKs. FGTXA is a CM station who is spending a vacation on Gaudeloupe in the company of his wife who is also FGTXB from the same holiday location. KV4AA verifies this information.

Jack Elliott ZL3CC, who spent six weeks' holiday in Australia during April-May, journeyed to VK6 during the early portion of his stay and whilst in Perth met over 20 of the W.A.

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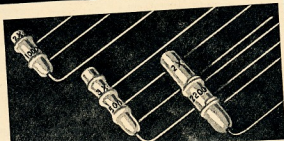
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For those who are prepared to spend fourpence on a jolly good laugh and some food for thought, it is recommended they purchase the April 23 issue of "The Australian Woman's Mirror," turn to page 4 and read the article titled "I married five radios," by "Cora-Lynn," who certainly has her information straight and right from the grid. Who among our fraternity cannot see himself mirrored to some extent at least in her humorous article.

Federal Secretary.] Stations in the other States, and in country locations where the power is used are asked by the harassed community of Sydney Amateurs to bear with them. When they suddenly disappear in the middle of an over it isn't that they are being rude or snooty. They have no option. It is simply that the gentry in the creaking set-up, that tries to keep our homes lit and powered, have had to yank the big switches, and put out a plea for help. The QRP section of the Division, with equipment limited to 5 watts input. One can have lots of fun with 1.4 volt valves and dry cells.

News is again rather scarce as it was in previous month, and conditions are still poor. Mc. in the evenings has produced a few Europeans and is the best DX band at the present time. One Sunday 28 Mc. did show signs of life with Ws and a few South Ams coming through. Not much news of 20 NU, with the end of 50 Mc. DX he is getting a few locals on that band only. Geoff seems to be sticking to the 20 Mc. band, but has a few South Ams chores around the 20 Mc. band. 2TY is keeping up his skeds with K. Mc., despite sometimes rather poor conditions. Nil from 2YO or 2KF this month. Nil going strong, heard chasing Yanks

Very little activity to report for the past month. Power cuts and cold shacks seem to have depopulated the Ham bands. 3.5 Mc. shows signs of livening up, conditions excellent lately. no QRN and plenty of room in the band. N.B.f.m. seems to be solving the b.c.i. troubles of a lot of Hams on this band. V.h.f. doings at an all-time low, and nothing very startling to report from the DX bands.

Welcome visitors to the Western Zone were Criff 2XW and XYL #ean. Orange has new Ham, 2AWY, who is ex-4WY. Welcome to this zone OM, 2XP only station heard from Dubbo area at all regularly. 2AXS considering n.b.f.m. to beat the h.e.l. 2AMV at Forbes mainly on 10, makes a rare QSO on 1 Mc. 2WH been making the most of good conditions on 80 to evap fish tales with the coast-wise boys. 2ACU at Cooberidge, putting out good signal on 7 Mc. and 3.5 Mc.

2LZ has moved into first part of the house and still busy building, all set up but not operating much. 2EX has a new car, so doing the proper thing and taking YF about. 2HT received his W.A.Z. certificate recently, takes it out and admires it about once a week, still driving nails furiously. Doonside Jack 3OF not heard much, but the rotary is in a different position every time it's seen, so is possibly on 20—maybe it is just the wind. 2AGN will be going to sea again soon and maybe heard from the Faralline Gulf.

SOUTH COAST AND SOUTHERN

Activity in this zone for the month has been good and at long last we have managed to get a few stations together on 40 phone on Sunday mornings. Our first hook-up included 2BQ, 2AFP, 2OW, 2DY, 2AMD and 2DO. The hook-up covered most of the area in the zone. Peter 2AFP heard operating portable from Sydney using Command Tx and Rx, input of 4 watts; the home outfit is being made to work on all hands and a 42 foot tower is ready to accommodate both 10 and 20 beams. 2BQ is engaged in tennis competitions during week-ends but manages the 40 zone hook-up; you should contact W5VV of Texas Jeff—W5VV represented U.S.A. in the Davis Cup in 1930 and visited Australia in 1933.

Gordon 2OW now sports 35 countries on c.w. and has been bitten very badly by the DX bug; 22 countries in one week is the best effort so far. 2AMD running low power, 6 watts to an exciter stage of his 20 rig is used on 40; Howard previously operated under a G call. Notice two new calls in the call sign columns of "A.R.—2BK" is in Liverpool and the other 2ZN would be remembered as 2ADX. 2AFD is also listed as being at Wollongong. No doubt Col 2ASF who recently left the North Coast will be heard from his new QTH at Eden. Toby 2AKY is experimenting with a Kollsman altimeter and has calibrated it to read mean sea level, is interested to see whether there is any

tie up between band conditions and day-to-day variations of pressure.

2ALS changed cars again, QRL putting elbow grease and polish onto the job. Lee 2PL sports 32 countries, but has not been active in the last few weeks. We learn that Jack 2QA, who held the position of Zone Officer in the North West, has retired from his position on the staff of the Elect. Dept. at Nyngan and will be leaving the town. Jack will spend a holiday at Tallamore and then visit many of the Hams down in southern N.S.W. His future QTH will be determined by his acceptance of a position that appeals to him—best of luck Jack. Every station taking part in the zone hook-up on Sunday mornings likes the idea. Everyone is welcome to join—time 1030, frequency about 7175 Kc.

— . . . —

VICTORIA

SOUTH WESTERN ZONE CONVENTION

The South Western Zone Convention was held at Ballarat on 20th and 21st April. An excellent attendance of members and visitors resulted and all had a very pleasant time. Visitors first called at 3AMH for information and then visited some of the shacks. The first function was the Annual Meeting held at the R.S.L. Hall. The President 3ZU welcomed the visitors and everyone then gave their call sign, name and location.

Election of office-bearers resulted in the following: President 3ASV, Vice-Presidents, 3AKE and 3ZU; Secretary and Treasurer, 3AMH; Committee, 3AGV, 3IC and 3AKR; Publicity Rep., 3AKR.

It was decided that the next Convention would be held at Warrambol on 20th and 21st October. 3ZU is organising this so keep that week-end free chaps and let Frank know early if you are coming. The zone hook-up is still being held on 3.5 Mc. first Sunday in the month at 2100 hours.

The matter of the BC211 Frequency Meter was raised and it was stated that it was awaiting a 1 Kc. crystal and being held in Melbourne. 3AKR donated the necessary crystal and we expect a rush of applicants for the secretarial position at the next elections. 3KY donated a trophy to the value of £5 for the member best serving his zone. Further details of this trophy will be available in due course. We then heard a few comments from 3EO regarding the matter for the Sunday broadcasts. However, Col

has our sympathy in this matter and everyone should make an effort to let Col have some details of our doings for inclusion.

Those present at the meeting were: 3ASV, 3AKR, 3IC, 3ADN, 3AJR, 3HG, 3GM, 3BE, 3ZL, 3AKE, 3VL, 3US, 3HW, 3BI, 3GR, 3AGV, 3PS, 3ALM, 3AVK, 3DS, 3VA, 2ARIS, 3GS, 3AIM, 3HK, 3AJ, 3JT, 3WQ, 3FO, 3KY, 3XD, 3AMB, 3ALW, 3RT, Ron Wilkinson, E. Giddings, B. Lyons, L. Jackson, R. Warren and Ted Howlett. The Sunday 3ASV, 3BE and 3AMH took a Type 3 Mk. II. to Cambrian Hill and operated it for a hidden transmitter hunt. 3AKE and 3AGV were the only two cars to find the transmitter and both did a good job. The official Dinner was held on Sunday and 59 sat down to a very pleasant rag-chew and meal. In the afternoon another transmitter hunt was held and more cars were entered on this occasion. The transmitter was operated by 3ASV, 3RT, 3WN and 3AMH and hidden on the south-east shore of Lake Burrumbeet and a few natural hazards made detection difficult, namely an almost impassable road. 3AKR was the only entrant to find the transmitter and he might have been in the blitz-bugger if he had known what the country was like. Several chaps came very close to finding the transmitter but turned back when they saw the road, in fact one car had to be pushed out. 3AKE disgraced himself by misinterpreting a bearing and wandered off into the mulla.

John 3AGD has a junior op now, which makes Leigh 3II a grand-dad. 3ADN still heard occasionally on 80, but not very active. Congratulations are also due to one of our associates, Tony Wilson, of Glen Thompson, for his engagement to a very nice lass from the big smoke. Don't let it put a stop to your c.w. practice Tony. No news from Warrambol area this month, so what about it Frank? 3AQV trying out a bit of s.s.c. on 40, also heard on 20. 3BU trying voice operated carrier, not quite right yet. 3ALG has erected an 80 metre doublet. 3AT bagging the DX on 20 metres; has almost re-built his modulator, is going to re-build the final.

3ABE gets on occasionally, heard working 2LBE. 3WT put out a good signal on 40 on Anzac Day. 3ABK still silent, YL trouble I guess. 3IC has not been on much over the past month. 3AOL built up a new final.

EASTERN ZONE

Our portable field week-end of May 5-6 proved a great success, judging from the marks on the Sunday night hook-up. Full details of final

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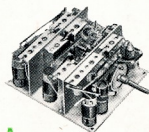
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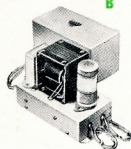
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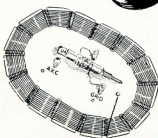
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MELB.: Lawrence and Hanson Electrical Pty. Ltd.; Replacement Parts Pty. Ltd.; Vealls Electrical and Radio Pty. Ltd.; Homcrafts Pty. Ltd.; J. H. Magrath & Co.; John Martin Electrical and Radio Co.; Warburton Franki Ltd.; A. H. Gibson Elect. Pty. Ltd.; Motor Spares Ltd.; A. G. Healing Ltd.; Hartleys Ltd.; Aus. General Electric; Amal. Wireless A/Asia Ltd.

SYD.: John Martin Pty. Ltd.; Geo. Brown & Co. Pty. Ltd.; Fox & Macgillivuddy Ltd.; Aust. General Elect. Pty. Ltd.; Dominion Factors Pty. Ltd.; Homcrafts Pty. Ltd.; Radio Despatch Service; Davis Radio Co.; Elect. Parts Pty. Ltd.; Lawrence & Hanson Elect. Pty. Ltd. (Sydney and Newcastle); Martin D. Launay Pty. Ltd. (Sydney and Newcastle); Homcrafts (Newcastle); Bloch & Gerber Ltd.; Boyts Radio & Elect.

ADEL.: Geo. Factor (Factory Rep.); Newton MacLaren Ltd.; A. G. Healing Ltd.; Harris, Scarfe Ltd.; Oliver J. Nilsen & Co. Ltd.; Gerard & Goodman Ltd.; Unchaun & Johnstone Ltd.; Radio Elect. Wholesalers Ltd.; Clarksons Ltd.

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TAS.: Chanderlens Pty. Ltd.; B. Martin Pty. Ltd.; A. E. Harrold; Crouch & Connah Pty. Ltd.

Lawrence & Hanson Elect. Pty. Ltd. (Hobart, Launceston); W. & G. Genders Pty. Ltd. (Hobart, Launceston, Burnie); Noyes Bros. Ltd. (Launceston); Homcrafts (Launceston, Hobart, Burnie); Gordon A. W. Wood (Launceston).